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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A method of playing a Pai Gow poker wagering card game comprising:
 - a. Players wagering on a Pai Gow game;
 - b. Players placing either an optional or mandatory wager against a pay table on a separate poker-type game that uses a best five-card hand from each player's hand;
 - c. dealing seven-card hands from a set of cards to multiple player positions and one dealer position;
 - d. resolving the game of Pai Gow poker;
 - e. forming best five-card poker hands for at least each player having placed the wager against the pay table;
 - f. resolving wagers with players who have placed the optional wager when that player's best five-card poker hand equals or exceeds a predetermined rank; and
 - g. providing an additional award to players who have placed the optional wager i) when that player's best five-card poker hand equals or exceeds a predetermined rank and ii) when a best five-card hand for the dealer is equal to or less than a predetermined rank.
2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of cards comprises a standard fifty-two card deck with at least one joker and there are six player positions to which hands are dealt.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein the set of cards consists of fifty-three cards, a fifty-two card playing card deck and one joker.
4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein the wager against a pay table does not enter the player into an envy hand wagering event.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the wager against a pay table enters the player into an envy hand wager event.
6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 where a first level of the wager against a pay table enters the player into the wagering event against the pay table and a second and higher level of wager against the pay table enters the player into the wagering event against the pay table and an envy hand poker gaming event.
7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the wager against the pay table is optional.
8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein the wager against the pay table is optional.
9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein a pay table for the best five-card hand for a player requires a rank of at least three-of-a-kind for payment.
10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein a pay table for the best 5-Card hand for a player requires a rank of at least a straight for payment.
11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 where the wager against a pay table enters the player into the wagering event against the pay table and an envy hand poker gaming event.
12. (ORIGINAL) A method of playing a Pai Gow poker wagering card game comprising:
 - a. Players wagering on a Pai Gow game;
 - b. Players placing an optional wager on a separate poker-type game that uses best five-card hands from player cards;
 - c. dealing seven-card hands to six player positions and one dealer position;
 - d. resolving the game of Pai Gow poker;

- e. comparing each best five-card poker hand made from player cards against a pay table for predetermined hand ranks;
 - f. paying players who have both placed the additional wager and provided hands of at least the predetermined rank according to the pay table and rules of the separate poker-type game played with best five-card hands of the players; and
 - g. if a best 5-Card hand for the dealer from the dealer's Pai Gow cards is equal to or less than a predetermined rank, increasing the amount of payment to players from f).
13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein the set of cards consists of fifty-three cards, a fifty-two card playing card deck and one joker.
14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein the wager against a pay table does not enter the player into an envy hand wagering event.
15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein the wager against a pay table enters the player into an envy hand wager event.
16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 where a first level of the wager against a pay table enters the player into the wagering event against the pay table and a second and higher level of wager enters the player into the wagering event against the pay table and an envy hand gaming event.
17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein the wager against the pay table is optional.
18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 17 wherein the wager against the pay table is optional.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein a pay table for the best 5-Card hand for a player requires a rank of at least three-of-a-kind for payment.
20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein a pay table for the best 5-Card hand for a player requires a rank of at least a straight for payment.
21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 20 wherein no fee is charged by the dealer for a favorable resolution of the Pai Gow wager when the wager against the pay table is made.
22. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein no fee is charged by the dealer for a favorable resolution of the Pai Gow wager when the wager against the pay table is made and a qualifying wager for an envy hand poker game is made.
23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the additional award is a multiple of at least 1X the wager against the pay table.
24. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein the multiple is fixed.
25. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein the multiple is variable, depending upon a composition of the dealer's best five card hand.
26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the sum of an award from step f and step g is equal to a multiple of the wager from step b.
27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12, wherein the additional award is a multiple of at least 1X the wager against the pay table.
28. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12, wherein the multiple is fixed.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12, wherein the multiple is variable, depending upon a composition of the dealer's best five card hand.

30. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12, wherein the sum of an award from step f and step g is equal to a multiple of the wager from step b.

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

- 1) Claims 1-30 have been **finally** rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,863,041 (Boylan) in view of US Patent No. 4,948,134 (Suttle).